

ARCHIVAL COPY

Kindly return to
X. L. L.

Dear Mr. R.
It will be worth
your while to
read Dr. More-
house's letter, here-
with as an illus-
tration of what
we may expect
to encounter in
the way of real-
onary spirit.
As you read, please
be it understood
Dr. Morehouse
has already
had explained
to him the matter
to object in haste
in return.

December 21, 1906

Dear Dr. Morehouse:

Replying to your confidential letter of December 29th; I have read with interest all that you say, but it does not seem to me to touch the core of the matter. The considerations which you suggest seem to be to be secondary and not at all those which ought to govern. We are founding this fund for one purpose only - that is to secure the greatest efficiency. We are not aiming to exploit any denomination or any denominational tenets but to secure the largest possible fruitfulness by using all those denominations which offer themselves as agencies for the propagation of the essential truths of Christianity. To secure efficiency we are proposing to distribute the income each year to those agencies, quite irrespective of denomination, which seem to be most effective. We can give in proportion to effectiveness, thus stimulating each to the highest degree of effectiveness. We are thinking also that by comparison of agencies and methods, we can secure the general adoption by all of those agencies of methods which any one shall have found most effective. We are thinking also to meet the varying and progressive conditions as they arise from generation to generation by tying up our funds to no particular ecclesiastical institution but making them elastic. Your suggestions do not quite touch the pith of the matter as it appears to us.

It may be that other denominations are, as you say, richer than the Baptists, but we are not proposing to enrich them or to enrich Baptists. It is true that other denominations do not give to Baptists. More's the pity! We shall not imitate their example by refusing to give to other denominations. It is true that Mr. Rockefeller is a Baptist, but it is also true that this fund

will not be given for the purpose of propagating distinctly Baptist doctrines but the great fundamental principles of Christianity upon which all agree. It is true that each denomination would know how much to expect if we announced a division in advance, but we want each denomination to know in advance that they may expect according to their fruitfulness and efficiency and on no other basis. It is true that your method would relieve the central organization of a good deal of its responsibility, but that is not a good method unless it can be shown that such relief would also greatly increase the efficiency of the work.

I have no doubt that everybody would be satisfied with the distribution which you propose, but that is a consideration which we think of very minor importance. The question is not how the gift will be received, but how the work can be made efficient.

Cordially yours,

F. T. CATES.

H. L. Morehouse, D.D.,
The American Baptist Home Mission Society,
312 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.